

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09506 011740Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /073 W  
-----027153 020311Z /63

R 011517Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9359  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MPOL, SOPN, UR, XC  
SUBJECT: ASEAN - SON OF SEATO?

1. THE FORMAL DEMISE OF SEATO HAS EVOKED SEVERAL SOVIET  
COMMENTARIES CLAIMING THAT THE U.S. AND OTHER HOPE TO  
CONVERT ASEAN INTO A MILITARY BLOC TO COMPENSATE FOR THE  
LOSS OF SEATO. THE FULLEST RECENT COMMENTARY OF ASEAN IS  
CONTAINED IN AN ARTICLE BY M. ROSTARCHUK IN IZVESTIYA  
(JUNE 27 EVENING EDITION) IN WHICH HE ASSERTS THAT THE  
U.S., AUSTRALIA, AND CERTAIN FORCES WITHIN THE ASEAN  
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COUNTRIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO TURN THAT ORGANIZATION INTO A  
MILITARY GROUPING ALONG THE LINES OF SEATO. THIS  
THEME APPEARS ALSO IN AN ARTICLE IN IZVESTIYA (JUNE 30)  
MARKING THE END OF SEATO AND IN THE TASS ACCOUNT OF  
THE SECRETARY'S ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH (PRAVDA, JULY 1).  
ACCORDING TO THESE PIECES, WHILE SEATO HAD OUTLIVED  
ITS USEFULNESS AND HAD BECOME DISCREDITED, THE WEST

HOPES TO PURSUE ITS GOALS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THROUGH A MILITARIZED ASEAN. HOWEVER, ANOTHER RECENT PRESS ITEM (TASS IN PRAVDA JUNE 25) REPORTED WITH IMPLICIT APPROVAL THE COMMENTS OF ASEAN'S SECRETARY GENERAL THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES HOPE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF INDOCHINA.

2. COMMENT: AS THESE ITEMS INDICATE, THE SOVIETS REMAIN AMBIVALENT ABOUT ASEAN, BUT HAVE REVIVED THE MILITARIZATION THEME WITH ITS IMPLIED WARNING. THIS LINE WAS STRONGLY STATED IN A LECTURE RECENTLY GIVEN EMBOFFS BY YURIY KUZNETSOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S SEA DIVISION WHO AVERRED GREAT CONCERN OVER THE PROSPECTS FOR THE MILITARIZATION OF ASEAN, CITING RECENT PRESS REPORTS FROM THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE. HE SOUGHT CONFIRMATION THAT CLOSE MILITARY COOPERATION WAS ALREADY A FACT. IN OUR VIEW, THE USSR WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO IMPROVE ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, AND IS NOT YET READY TO WRITE THEM OFF AS TOOLS OF "IMPERIALISM." BUT MOSCOW IS CONSTRAINED BY THE VIEWS OF HANOI AND VIENTIANE AND IS NOT WILLING TO RISK THEIR DISPLEASURE BY TAKING A MORE POSITIVE LINE ON ASEAN.  
MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770236-0616  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** MPOL, SOPN, UR, XC, ASEAN, SEATO  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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